

Jordan Times

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U.N. urges lifting arms embargo for Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The 179-nation General Assembly proposed Friday that the Security Council drop its arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina, despite concern that this would hamper peace efforts. The assembly took the action on the eve of presidential elections in Serbia that could change Belgrade's policy of war with other former Yugoslav republics. The General Assembly — voting 102-0, with 57 abstentions — approved a resolution that also urged the council to consider enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia and setting up a war crimes tribunal. It also suggested considering using "all necessary means" to stop the war in Bosnia. That could clear the way for military intervention, a drastic escalation of international efforts to bring peace.

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Israeli Meretz party condemns expulsion

TEL AVIV (R) — A key Israeli leftist party has condemned its leaders' support for the expulsion of 415 Palestinians calling the move a "gross violation of human rights." Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's decision to expel alleged Hamas activists "a necessary evil" on Thursday after the bound and blindfolded Palestinians were driven to Lebanon in Israel's largest peace-time expulsion. Hours later, the Meretz party council termed the expulsions "a gross violation of human rights and the principles of international law." Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadek said on Friday, "In the past Meretz, a key partner in Mr. Rabin's coalition government, had spearheaded Israeli opposition to the expulsions. I urge Rabin to reconsider the deportations and return the deportees immediately," Mr. Sadek, an Israeli Arab, told Reuters. Party leader and Israeli Education Minister Shulamit Aloni said she accepted the party council's condemnation but that she still backed the expulsions.

Arabs to discuss future of peace talks — PLO

UNITED AGENCIES — Representatives of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Egypt will meet in Cairo to coordinate positions after the PLO decision to suspend participation in the Middle East peace talks, a PLO official said Friday. PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told a news conference in the Tunisian capital the meeting of senior representatives would take place "within days."

"The date will be set by us," he said. Consultations between Arab League members were already under way and the Palestinian negotiating team would fly to Cairo for a Palestinian leadership meeting starting Saturday, he said. Mr. Abed Rabbo appealed to the peace talks with Israel, to end the Tunis meeting. "The situation needs the unity of the Palestinian people and that we put differences, if there are political differences, for us Hamas remains a Palestinian force in the occupied territories," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the PLO's decision to suspend participation "will not be suspended until there are preconditions of an Israeli commitment to abide by the Geneva Convention and the return of the deportees from the occupied territories," Mr. Abed Rabbo said. The PLO boycotted Thursday's session of the eighth round of peace talks to protest at the expulsions. Senior officials at the talks called the expulsions "fatal" to the peace process.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had sent a message to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi asking the Lebanese government to bar the entry of the expelled Palestinians. "We want to bar the way to the peace process," he said. Mr. Abed Rabbo said the Palestinian negotiating team at the peace talks had a "positive" meeting on Monday with outgoing U.S. President George Bush and Mr. Bush told the United States was against the expulsions.

Israel expels 415 Palestinians

Expelled group stuck between Israeli and Lebanese checkpoints

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Hundreds of weary and hungry Palestinians shuttled under heavy rain between Israeli and Lebanese army checkpoints in southeast Lebanon Friday, seeking shelter after their expulsion from the occupied territories by Israel.

Lebanese tanks and armoured vehicles formed a roadblock before dawn and turned back more than 400 Palestinians forced out in an unprecedented mass expulsion that threatened Middle East peace talks in Washington. The expelled Palestinians, said to belong to the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad organisations, trudged back in snow to the Zommaraya gateway to reenter Israel's self-styled "security zone" but found the passage closed.

Security sources said Israeli soldiers and Israel's surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army, fired over their heads to send them away. No one was hurt. The expulsion was retaliation for the killing of Israeli policeman Nissim Toledano, the sixth trooper slain by the Hamas organisation in two weeks. A statement from Hamas distributed in Beirut threatened to kidnap more Israeli soldiers to trade them for the return of the expelled Palestinians and said: "This expulsion will fuel the wrath against the Zionist entity and its army."

The expelled Palestinians held their first Friday prayers in exile under a cold rain in no-man's land. "We will have prayers as usual," announced leaders of the 415. Without a mosque or a prayer rug they knelt on the rain-soaked rocky soil of Israel's "security zone."

"God take our revenge on (Yitzhak) Rabin," prayer leader Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi said of the Israeli prime minister. "Amen" came the heartfelt chorus as the rain fell about six kilometres north of Israeli troops who earlier Friday fired over their heads to drive them away from the frontier.

"This is the peace Rabin seeks. The peace of destroying houses, of emptying land. He wants nothing good for you or the sons of Palestine," Mr. Rantisi said. "He only wants evil. We tell Rabin who wants to uproot the Islamic movement from Palestine that even if hundreds of members of the Muslim movement are deported thousands more will replace them."

"You will see that soon... we tell Rabin this deportation is the first nail in the coffin of the Zionist state," added Mr. Rantisi, who said he was a Gaza lecturer in Islamic studies. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri talked by telephone with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and later said the Palestinians would not be allowed into government-held Lebanese territory.

"If any harm befalls any of the deportees, Israel will be responsible for it," Mr. Hariri said. Defence Minister Moshe Dailoul said: "The deportation is tantamount to an Israeli aggression against Lebanon."

"Uprooting them from their land and sending them to Lebanon is absolutely unacceptable. Why are they not brought to trial in their country?" Mr. Dailoul said. Mr. Rantisi urged President Elias Hrawi to help them return home. "We are a people accustomed to hardships and we are willing to stay

here in this area for as long as it takes for us to return to our lands," said Mr. Rantisi. The chief delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Bernard Pfeiffer, said the Red Cross would provide about 20 tents, 1,200 blankets, kitchen sets, stoves and medical care for the expelled Palestinians.

He said emergency food supplies would be brought in the Bekaa Valley. "As long as they are stuck in a no-man's land area, we will provide them with shelter and relief supplies," he said. He said the ICRC's Geneva headquarters would decide whether to evacuate the Palestinians.

The expelled Palestinians had left the "security zone" in a convoy of six buses at about 3:15 a.m. (0115 GMT), driven half way through to Marj Al Zohour and left stranded in rain and fog to walk the remaining distance to the Lebanese checkpoint. Security sources said the Lebanese outpost, four kilometres from Zommaraya, had set up earthen mounds that blocked the roads.

Five T-54 tanks and 15 armoured personnel carriers were then brought in along with 250 troops to reinforce the blockade. The Palestinians, most of them blindfolded, had arrived in Zommaraya, on the edge of the "security zone" on Thursday.

They had waited in buses along the rain-drenched frontier for 15 hours as Israel's supreme court heard appeals against the expulsion and finally decided to uphold the government's decision. The prayer leader thanked Lebanon for barring the group from government-controlled territory and

(Continued on page 5)

that accepted the expelled Palestinians "will help Israel betray Islam." The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the international community should "immediately stop such inhuman actions by resorting to any possible means."

Morocco's Foreign Ministry said it "vigorously condemns" the deportation as a violation of international law and regrets that it comes at a time of peace negotiations.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Maurice Gourgault Montagne urged Israel to avoid playing into the hands of those who want to sabotage peace talks. "The assassins wanted to kill the peace process," Mr. Gourgault-Montagne said in a daily press briefing. "This game must be avoided. That's why we regret the Israeli action."



Over 400 Palestinians, expelled from the occupied territories by Israel, wait in an area between Israeli and Lebanese army positions Friday (AFP photo)

Security Council draft resolution asks Israel to rescind expulsion

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council Friday was expected to condemn Israel's expulsion of over 400 Palestinians. Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 15-nation council would overwhelmingly adopt a resolution ordering Israel to rescind the expulsions, calling them a violation of the Geneva conventions. The United States, usually a firm supporter of Israel, was expected to let the resolution pass by not using its veto power. On other occasions, including last January, the U.S. has condemned expulsions by the Israeli government.

The Palestine Liberation Organiza-

tion's (PLO) U.N. observer discussed the issue with non-aligned members of the Security Council Thursday. The PLO observer, Nasser Al Kidwa, has privately circulated the proposed resolution strongly condemning the Israeli decision to "mass deport Palestinian civilians" and calling on it to ensure the "safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those already deported."

Mr. Kidwa also sent a letter to Mr. Ghali asking him to "prevent the actual implementation" of the expulsion decision and "further violations by Israel, the occupying power, of international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions."

He said: "Such an unprecedented mass deportation will be detrimental to the peace process currently under way and will certainly further cause the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory to deteriorate."

Israel has previously expelled 66 Palestinians since the December 1987

start of the uprising against its rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Dr. Ghali has called on Israel to rescind the expulsion orders and to permit the safe and immediate return of those expelled. "The secretary-general has learned with grave concern of the decision by Israel to deport to southern Lebanon several hundred Palestinians from the occupied territories," the U.N. chief said in a statement issued through a spokesman.

He noted that the Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of Aug. 12, 1949, to the territories occupied by Israel, and recalls that Security Council Resolution 726, unanimously adopted on Jan. 6, 1992, specifically requested Israel to refrain from such action.

"We call on the Israeli authorities to rescind the deportation orders and to permit the safe and immediate return of those expelled."

King expected home soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein is expected home soon from the United States, where he underwent a medical check-up at the Mayo Clinic as a follow-up to the surgery he underwent in August.

The King, who left the Mayo Clinic Saturday after a stay lasting less than 48 hours, met with outgoing U.S. President George Bush at the White House Wednesday. The King and President Bush discussed the Middle East peace process as well as other issues related to the situation in the region.

The White House said Mr. Bush "welcomed" the King's decision to commit troops to both peacemaking and peacekeeping missions in Somalia.

The King called the Middle East peace talks "an opportunity that shouldn't be lost" and said he expects the process will continue after President-elect Bill Clinton takes office Jan. 20. During a photo session in the Oval Office, the King also told reporters he was feeling "very, very well."

Asked if he expects the peace talks to continue after the change in U.S. administrations, the King replied: "I hope they will continue. I haven't heard anything to the contrary. I think all the parties involved and engaged in the process see this as a chance and an opportunity that shouldn't be lost and therefore I think they will continue."

King Hussein said he believes progress in the talks is "slow but steady."

Jordan: Expulsion 'absolutely outrageous'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Friday described as "absolutely outrageous and totally unacceptable" Israel's expulsion of over 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories and said the plight of the expelled Palestinians stranded between the Israeli and Lebanese armies showed the world the injustice that the Palestinian people had been suffering under Israeli occupation.

Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif also called on the international community to intervene and ensure that Israel reverses its expulsion order and permits the Palestinians to return home. The Israeli occupation authorities transported 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories to the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon late Thursday but the Lebanese army blocked their entry to Lebanon beyond the 1,000-square-kilometre enclave.

As the expelled tried to reenter the "security zone," they found it sealed off, effectively stranding them between areas controlled by the Israeli and Lebanese armies. "The expulsion and the plight of those expelled shows in very graphic lines the injustice that the Palestinian people have been suffering for years," said Mr. Sharif. The minister said the international community "should shoulder the responsibility of finding an immediate solution" to the stand-off in South Lebanon and ensure that the expelled Palestinians were allowed to return to their homes.

Mr. Sharif also noted that Jordan had made its views very clear to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and exerted all efforts on the international level to prevent the expulsions.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber summoned the heads of the diplomatic missions in Amman on the five Thursday to lodge a strong protest and urge their countries to seek a reversal of the Israeli move, "a flagrant violation of the Geneva conventions and human rights."

The expulsions, he said, could deal a severe blow to the Middle East peace process.

"The expulsions in the occupied territories could be defused only through serious efforts to ensure the success of the peace process and the achievement of

of their own people by the Israelis."

"Israel cannot punish the entire Palestinian nation" for the killing of one of its policemen, Mr. Sharif told the Jordan Times, noting that the international community has categorically rejected such "collective punishment."

Mr. Sharif also noted that Jordan had made its views very clear to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and exerted all efforts on the international level to prevent the expulsions.

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"The expulsions in the occupied territories could be defused only through serious efforts to ensure the success of the peace process and the achievement of

a comprehensive and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

The Foreign Ministry also asked Jordan's permanent delegate to the U.N. in New York to convey the Kingdom's views to the General Assembly and the Security Council and seek their intervention to avert a further deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories.

Jordan also asked its representative in Geneva to raise the issue with the chairman of the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

At a press conference in Amman Thursday, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Abu Rayyan condemned the Israeli expulsion move as "yet another link in a long series of human rights violations... (and) an arbitrary measure, which violates all international laws."

The Islamic Movement — representing the powerful Muslim Brotherhood — issued a statement calling on

(Continued on page 4)

Palestinians observe mass general strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank staged a spontaneous general strike Friday to protest the expulsions of more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon. Israeli soldiers and police stepped up patrols.

An 18-year-old Palestinian was shot and critically wounded in a clash with troops in the West Bank, the army said. A spokesman said Israel would not take back the expelled Palestinians who were stuck in southern Lebanon Friday between roadblocks of the Lebanese army and an Israeli controlled militia. Lebanon has said it would not let the Palestinians pass further. The spokesman, Obed Ben Ami, said the expelled were, in fact, already on Lebanese soil. "They got off the trucks, they walked up north to the Lebanese military post and... this is not a no-man's land. This is sovereign Lebanese territory," Mr. Ben Ami said.

He said the correct number of Palestinians expelled was 415. There had been initial confusion after 35 men slated for expulsion were pulled off buses headed towards Lebanon late Thursday. They were later replaced by 32

Gulf war fund sets guidelines

GENEVA (R) — A U.N. compensation commission on Friday set guidelines for claims from industries and businesses hurt by an international embargo of Iraq after it invaded Kuwait. U.N. officials said.

The governing council of the commission, made-up of all 15 members of the U.N. Security Council, did not release the exact terms, reached at a private week-long meeting in Geneva. A communiqué said the council had agreed "general guidelines in dealing with cases in which the embargo and related measures were also the cause of business losses."

"With this agreement, the commission has practically finished its preparatory, legislative work," Ambassador Carlos Alzamora, executive secretary of the commission, told Reuters. "We are processing 400,000 claims," he added.

The commission has been flooded with claims from individuals resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and subsequent occupation, according to U.N. officials who have been compiling a computer data base in Geneva.

The further we get into the country, I think we're going to see less control," he said at a

news conference in Mogadishu. "As quickly as they get here, we'll get them out further into the country, and that's the key," he added.

Gen. Hoar also said unexpected troop commitments from some countries would enable many U.S. Marines to go home earlier than planned, some as early as next month.

There were no injuries when snipers shot at Marines in Baidoa late Thursday, and the Marines did not return fire, spokesman Major Mark Hughes said Friday.

It was the first time the troops had come under fire in Baidoa since they arrived Wednesday to help distribute food to the starving interior. Baidoa airstrip, however, where the Marines have set up camp, has been fired on.

Gen. Hoar said that about 15 per cent of food supplies were looted after being delivered by U.S. Marine escort to one village Thursday near Baidoa.

Meanwhile, the U.S.-led multinational force was preparing to venture into northern Mogadishu, where chaos and violence

are reportedly increasing.

Since arriving in Somalia 11 days earlier, troops have been concentrated at the airport and port, in south Mogadishu. U.N. spokesman fan Maleeb said forces would move into north Mogadishu in the next few days "because the security situation is deteriorating."

Sheikh Ali Haj Yusef, a Muslim religious leader and clan elder, said the bandits initially left the city or stowed away their weapons when the foreign troops arrived.

"But when they realised that the Marines were not going to confront them, they have been digging up their guns," he said. "Now, no-one dares to go into the streets after 5 p.m. for fear of being robbed."

Angela Mackay, a spokeswoman for Care International, said a number of killings were reported in north Mogadishu, but no details were available.

She said relief workers for the Irish charity Goal were advised not to go to work at a feeding centre in an area of north Moga-

dishu where fighting has been intense.

Ms. Mackay also said snipers have fired three shots at French forces' headquarters in Mogadishu overnight. No injuries were reported.

Even as troops move out into the famine and war-ravaged countryside, U.S. officials are looking ahead to when they can pull out. They are calling on the United Nations to quickly develop a new kind of peacekeeping force to replace the Marines.

In Washington, Martin Brandtner said Thursday that U.S. troops would expand to Obdura, Delet Wen and Gailalasi, to the north and east of Baidoa, and later, to the southern cities of Bardera and Kismayo.

But the declined to specify when those moves would be made, given the dangerous situation in the south.

A U.S. air force engineering and survey team was at Kismayo airport Friday, military officials said on condition of anonymity. Clan fighting has erupted in the port city in recent days.

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Qadhafi, Musaweni may be indicted in U.S. arms case

few months. It has accused Saudi Arabia of aggression over the border clash in which three people died and which followed several months of border tensions.

Although Qatar's Gulf Arab neighbours are angry that it has plunged the 11-year-old GCC into crisis over its dispute with Saudi Arabia, they are also unhappy that Riyadh has apparently shown little sign of compromise. Gulf diplomats said.

Previous mediation by Oman, a GCC member with a reputation of effective fence-mending within the region, apparently foundered on the hardline Saudi attitude, they added.

two suspects, including Mounir Fahmy Barsoum, former head of the Egyptian air force, also are accused of trying to ship

The hold-up demonstrated continued lawlessness in Baidoa, 250 kilometers west of Mogadishu, despite the arrival on Wednesday of 900 U.S. and French troops to provide armed escorts for food relief supplies.

Guns and the "technical" battlewagons used by marauding bandits have vanished from the streets of Mogadishu and Baidoa since the troops' arrival.

But several aid agency officials say robberies and muggings have increased. Gunmen who pre-

The United States has said it has no plans to forcibly disarm militias whose bloody feuding over the past two years has turned Somalia into a land of famine and anarchy.

France, which is contributing 2,200 men to an American-dominated force which eventually with swell to 35,000 troops, insists the guns must be seized to restore stability.

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Chairman, Central Tenders Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Eng. Bashir Jaghbeer

WFP said in a statement. It did not say whether there were injuries in the attacks. The WFP said Wednesday's incident was the third in three weeks in which U.N. relief trucks were distributing winter food aid to the Kurds in northern Iraq were targeted. Six trucks were destroyed on Nov. 29, and 10 trucks exploded time bombs were found on six others, the agency said.

than the end of December 1992.

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Home News

Danish politician condemns Israeli deportation

by Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Secretary General of the Socialist Democratic Party in Denmark, Steen Christensen, arrived in Amman today on a four-day visit to discuss the situation in the Middle East region. Mr. Christensen met Thursday with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and discussed the ongoing peace process and underlined Jordan's important and positive role in efforts to attain a just peace.

Mr. Christensen told Dr. Abu Jaber that Denmark supports the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. For his part, Dr. Abu Jaber briefed the visiting Danish delegation on Jordan's views on the peace process and the extra burden the country was shouldering as a result of the return of hundreds of thousands of people from Kuwait.

Mr. Christensen and his delegation were received by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat who outlined the Arab Israeli conflict. Deputy Taher Al Masri called on Denmark to give momentum to Jordanian-Danish relations and urged Copenhagen to play an active role in settling the Middle East problem and in safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Christensen and his party went Friday on a sightseeing tour of a number of attractions in Amman. He said that he was meeting the Minister Sharif Zeid Ben

Shaker and Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif Saturday for more discussions on Danish-Jordanian relations and the situation in the Middle East region. Before coming to Jordan, Mr. Christensen said that his tour of the region was aimed at obtaining first hand information about the situation before Denmark assumes the presidency of the European Community.

He said that his party was determined to try to give momentum to the European Community's drive to provide Jordan with economic aid and help the country overcome the consequences of the Gulf war and the return of expatriates.

Mr. Christensen and his party who met in Tunis on their way to Jordan with the Palestine President Yasser Arafat plan to leave Amman on Sunday.

Education conference starts Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — A round table conference on education will be organized in Amman Sunday by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Ministry of Education.

Announcing the meeting Friday, Dr. Wajih Al Farah, director of research and educational development at the Ministry of Education said that delegates from Yemen, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan will discuss education at different levels.

The four-day discussion will focus on education in Jordan, difficulties facing the educational process and needs of Jordan's primary level. Dr. Farah said that the delegates will discuss means of ensuring basic education for the young generation by the end of the year 2000. He said that several working papers on education for children, the eradication of illiteracy, adult education, care

for children with special needs and education for women will be reviewed at the meeting.

Dr. Farah said that Jordanian universities, trade unions and a number of government departments as well as international organisations operating in Jordan such as UNICEF, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund will be represented at the meeting.

The conference Sunday comes close on the heels of a meeting which concerns on-the-job training of teachers which ended in Amman Thursday. Organised by the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Jordan, the seminar examined means of helping school teachers with diplomas to attain at least the first university degrees through on-the-job training courses.

Tribal leaders take Maan Municipal Council

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of tribal leaders swept the 12-seat Maan Municipal Council defeating an Islamist bloc in the city's first elections in eight years.

The Al Ahd (the pledge) bloc victory (not to be confused with the Al Ahd political party) was announced Thursday in line with predictions by political observers in the district.

"The city is tribal and tribal politics play the major role in the voting patterns," said one resident observer of the city.

A voting turn-out of 63 per cent was considered high because of the prevailing political apathy in the area. Most residents have tribal affiliations and it was predicted that the 12-member Al Ahd bloc would win uncontested.

Thursday's results must be seen in perspective to elections held in

this southern city in 1984 when tribal representatives ran against one another. Calls of foul play and a squabble over the presidency of the council led to violence and vandalism. Two years later in 1986 a tribal pact was agreed upon by the major clans which control Maan in which the municipal council presidency would rotate among the tribal representatives every two years, hence the name 'the pledge'.

Existing political parties are said to have almost no foothold in Maan. In the 1989 legislative elections candidates with strong tribal affiliations won four of the five seats allocated to the Maan Governorate. Only Youssef Al Athem, an outspoken Islamist had any clear political affiliation other than tribalism.

Maan, a historical trading link between Mecca and Damascus, has become the trucking capital

of Jordan in the last 20 years. In April 1989 it was the site of price riots which led to the downfall of then Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's government and the Maan riots are often cited as the incident which put Jordan's democratisation efforts into fast gear.

Maan suffered unemployment rates of up to 75 per cent during the Gulf crisis and it was hurt after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 when Gulf countries banned all Jordanian transport vehicles and the U.N. endorsed the economic embargo on Iraq.

Today the economic situation has improved in Maan but poverty is still rampant. Unemployment for example has gone down to 25-35 per cent.

Maan like Tafleh and Karak has not been as influenced by Islamist politics as Amman and northern districts in Jordan. While cities like Karak always

enjoyed left wing and pan-Arab political activities Maan has remained staunchly tribal.

In November elections in Tafleh, tribal leaders swept the municipal council elections on separate tickets rather than a bloc.

In Karak in the same month, tribal candidates with back-door Islamist backing, swept that city's municipal council.

Of the 5,318 eligible voters 3,368 went to the polls. The new municipal council consists of: Musa Amin Al Tahan (2,233 votes received), Shaker Muhtesih — 1,917, Ayed Rawad — 1,905, Saud Miree — 1,900, Abdul Abu Hilaleh — 1,747, Mohammad Al Amah — 1,742, Khaled Shweiter — 1,731, Ahmad Abu Odeh — 1,688, Mohammad Obeido — 1,685, Hassan Al Khoura — 1,671, Ali Karajeli — 1,662 and Mushah Ibrahim Zweid — 1,641.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Alia inaugurates free medical day

AQABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Thursday inaugurated the free voluntary medical day, organised by the Rural Women Development and Rehabilitation Society, in cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and Aqaba Health Department. Aqaba District Governor Hani Al Majali welcomed Princess Alia and thanked her for sponsoring the event.

Regional office of Red Crescent to open in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and Chief of the Middle East and North Africa, Desk at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Sulaiman Al Ammari Thursday signed an agreement under which a regional office of the Federation will be set up in Amman. The agreement defines the legal status of the office in Jordan, its staff, operation and managements. The office aims at providing a helping hand to the National Red Crescent societies in the Middle East, and facilitating relief operations.

Teachers' union retains threat of strike action

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Union for Employees in Private Education called off a strike on Saturday 12 December, and rescheduled it for 22 December according to Union president Mazen Al Ma'ayta if the Ministry of Education does not meet the Union's demands. The strike will involve eighteen thousand teachers and administrators in private educational institutions, he said.

The reasons behind the strike stem from the non-application of the 1974 collective agreement which specifies the equality of employees in private education with their counterparts at the Ministry of Education. This means that a teacher or administrator in the private sector should receive the same wages and have the same number of lessons to teach as one working for the ministry. On average the maximum work load in the private sector should be eight hours a day. But in a lot of instances teachers and administrators put in more working hours than is legally accepted, and work in unacceptable working conditions," said Mr. Ma'ayta.

There are 800 private schools in Jordan, and Mr. Ma'ayta pointed out that 60 per cent of these do not give their employees proper wages. A common occurrence, he noted, was that teachers are paid JD 30 a month without an official contract. School owners therefore avoid paying large amounts of money to the Social Security Department, since wages are not declared.

Mr. Ma'ayta pointed out that inspections by the Ministry of Labour were few and could not cope with all departments. If caught, he said, the school would only have to pay a minor fine which would not prevent it from committing the same crime again.

"There is no law to force a school owner to pay his employees a certain salary," he elaborated.

Mr. Ma'ayta claimed that the Ministry of Education said that this problem did not lie within its jurisdiction but the Ministry of Labour.

The Union, he said, has called on the Ministry of Education to take more responsibility in taking decisions without having to go through the Ministry of Labour.

Mr. Ma'ayta said that nothing had been done so far. "Now was the time as working conditions got deplorable and as Jordan was passing through an era of democracy that allowed us to stage a strike."

Last week, on 12 December, Union members met with Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi as a last appeal. Mr. Ma'ayta said that the Minister showed surprise on hearing that the collective agreement of 1974 was being breached, and promised to remedy the situation. It was decided that a committee would be formed to circulate all the educational departments in the Kingdom to make sure that they were abiding by the agreement.

The Union president pointed out however that the strike would go ahead if conditions were not remedied soon.

Deputies complete tour of Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — The chairman and members of the Agricultural Committee at the Lower House of Parliament who are inspecting agricultural projects in south Jordan, Wednesday visited the sea port of Aqaba and met with Aqaba's Governor Qafan Majali.

Discussions covered problems facing the agricultural sector and fisheries in Aqaba. The high cost of equipment, farm machinery and poor supply of water and insufficient pasture lands were cited as important factors behind the problem.

The governor said that the agricultural sector is suffering from limited investment.

Deputies later met with local farmers to discuss their difficulties in marketing products and they received requests for better transportation for exports and subsidised overheads such as reduced electricity costs.

French general on military visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Commander of the French Air Force General Vincent Lanata and a two-member delegation on a four-day trip to Jordan plan to visit a number of Jordanian military positions Saturday before leaving for Paris Sunday, according to a French embassy official Friday.

The official told the Jordan Times that the three-member team who met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleh Thursday were on a sightseeing tour Friday before resuming their meetings with the military personnel on Saturday.

General Lanata and his party visited Thursday a number of air force bases in Jordan and met with air force officers.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, discussions with Field Marshal Abu Taleh covered the situation in the Middle East



Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleh (left) meets French Air Force General Vincent Lanata Thursday

and Jordanian Armed Forces participation in U.N. peace-keeping forces around the world. The two sides also reviewed scopes of cooperation between Paris and Amman in joint training for the military and the exchange of expertise for the benefit of both sides, said Petra.

General Lanata voiced his country's deep satisfaction with the level of joint military cooperation between Jordan and France, Petra noted. It said that the French team later listened to a briefing on the development and duties of the Jordanian Royal Air force.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of ceramics by the Jordanian artist Mahmoud Taleh at Alia Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from Gaza Faysal Al Hassan, Kamel Al Mughanni and I sifa Shawa at Abdul Haseem Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

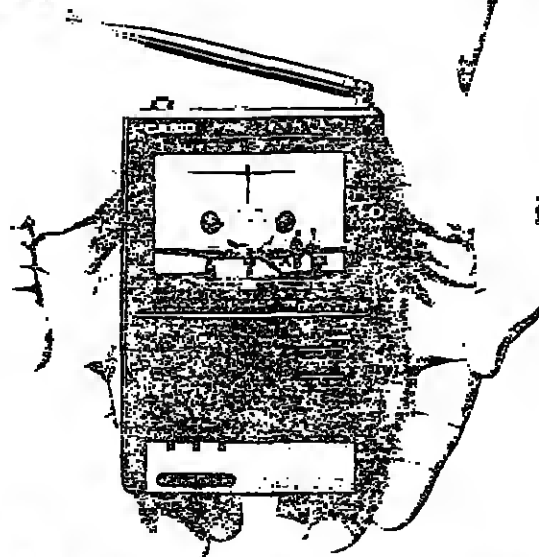
Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hissan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.

Exhibition of paintings by artist Kamel Al Jawhari at Housing Bank Complex Art Gallery.

LECTURE

Lecture entitled "Growing up in Binational Families" by Dr. Josi Saleem — Pickarts at the Geotie Institut at 7 p.m.

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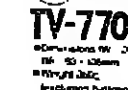
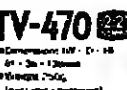
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Palestinians observe massive strike

(Continued from page 1)

and lawyers, but we have not succeeded in getting any information," said Dr. Zahar's son, 13-year-old Khaled.

Some 200 Hamas activists were released from the Al Faraj military lockup in the West Bank Friday, Palestinian reporters said. The army said it was checking the report.

The occupied Gaza Strip was under blanket curfew for the 11th day Friday. Troops also sealed all of the occupied territories for a fifth day, barring all Palestinians.

Israel expels 415 Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

said he hoped it would stick to its position. He called for Arab moral and financial support.

"We also ask all Arab countries to stand on our side and strengthen our stand and steadfastness," said Mr. Rantisi, who asked all Arab delegations to pull out of Middle East peace talks immediately.

The expelled Palestinians peppered Lebanese reporters with questions about Hizbollah (Party of God) waging guerrilla war on Israeli forces on the Middle East's most explosive frontline.

They said they were impressed by what they saw as Hizbollah's success

from entering Israel.

Towns and villages in the West Bank were deserted as Palestinians locked themselves in their homes in spontaneous protest. Streets in Arab East Jerusalem, normally crowded with thousands of worshippers streaming towards Al Aqsa Mosque for Friday prayers, were all but empty.

Leaders of the Palestinian uprising have called for "heavy clashes" to protest the expulsions which are unprecedented in their swiftness and scope, but limited to a two-year period.

Peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

expressing greatest frustration, said the expulsion of Palestinians had brought the peace process to a critical point.

Mr. Clinton and the White House separately agreed expulsions could imperil the peace talks.

Mr. Bush, seeking to keep alive the unprecedented negotiations he launched with the Madrid conference in October 1991, hosted separate meetings at the White House with teams representing Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

But the sessions were largely symbolic as Mr. Bush — whose major foreign policy accomplishment may be the Mideast peace process — leaves office in a few weeks.

From Little Rock, Arkansas, Mr. Clinton acknowledged the eighth round of negotiations in Washington was ending on a shaky note.

"I share the anger and frustration and outrage of the Israeli people" who are targets of radical groups bent on violence, Mr. Clinton said.

"On the other hand, I am concerned this deportation (by Israel) may go too far and imperil the peace talks... I hope some other avenue can be found," he said.

Appearing to answer critics concerned he may let the talks slide as he focuses on a domestic agenda, Mr. Clinton said: "I will do whatever I can to embrace the talks and keep them going and put the United States behind the peace process."

Although they met with Mr. Bush, Palestinians and Syrians Thursday boycotted 1992's final peace talks with Israel in protest over the expulsions.

"This lethal combination of wilful human rights abuses, and stalemate or lack of progress in negotiations has led to an escalation in violence, has led to further conflict, and has eroded the credibility and the support for the

peace process," Dr. Ashrawi said. "We feel that the peace process now is at a critical stage it has been dealt a very serious and fatal blow, and we feel that there has to be a total reconsideration of the whole process," she told a news conference.

After Mr. Bush's meeting with negotiators, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater called on Israel to end expulsions because they "risk

complicating the search for peace." He also said Arabs and Israelis must "form a concerted voice calling for an end to all forms of violence."

Mr. Fitzwater said Mr. Bush commended the parties for sticking with the peace process and asserted: "Substantial achievements are within reach if the parties make additional efforts to address the legitimate concerns of their negotiating parties."

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Enquiries: Currency Issue Dept. Tel.: 630301, fax: 636889, P.O.Box 37

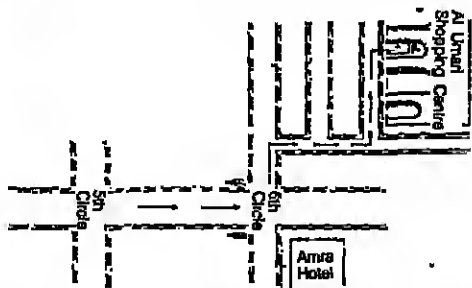
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1st Division Basketball Championship

Orthodoxi, Ahli lead standings

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Orthodoxi kept their unyielding form this week as they won their third successive match scoring over the 150 mark when they beat Al Watani 154-73 in the third stage of the First Division Basketball Championship organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

In other matches all-time rivals Al Ahli defeated last season's third placed Al Jalil, while Al Jazireh beat Homentmen and did not show-up for their first match against Al Watani.

This of course led to Al Watani's advanced standing, as they gained two points, while under international and JBF rules the withdrawing team, Al Jalil, did not get a point. Later on, Al Jalil's officials decided their team would play, but surprisingly lost by two points to Al Jazireh and later lost to Al Ahli. They are now at the bottom in the overall standings.

In the week's latest matches Al Ahli who are seeking to regain the title they won in 1990, flexed some muscle, beating Al Jalil 86-48, the first half ending 45-17.

In the other match held in Irbid, Al Hussein scored a big win of 110-63 against Al Abbasi, the first half ending 64-28.

Meanwhile two matches were played in Amman at Al Orthodoxi court. In the first match Al Jazireh scored an expected 94-63 win over Homentmen.

The score was close at the beginning as the scoreboard showed a 7-6 lead for Al Jazireh, who took advantage of a series of turnovers and widened their lead to 16-6.

accept certain objections they had raised over their match against Al Ahli in the Under-22 Tournament earlier this month. Consequently Al Jalil initially decided to withdraw from the First Division Championship and did not show-up for their first match against Al Watani.

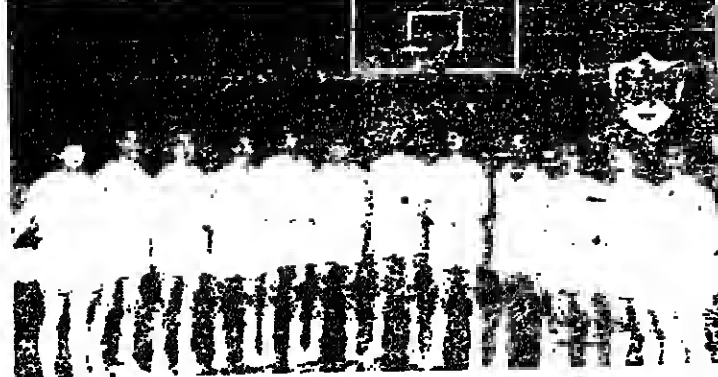
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Al Ahli's team

Homentmen's Sevan Sarkissian scored a three-pointer followed by some fast-breaks by playmaker Robert Chatmejian to narrow the gap at 22-14.

From then on, Al Jazireh's Ghaith Ennabi led his team to widen their lead to 35-20 and 41-24. However Homentmen's Ibrahim Tadros was the star of the day as he secured rebounding for his team — outdoing his much taller opponents Jamal Buheiri and Khaled Abu Namous — to score for his team. The first half ended 52-31 for Al Jazireh.

Homentmen narrowed the gap at the beginning of the first half as Chatmejian, assisted superbly by Vasken Adjemian, scored seven consecutive points. Nevertheless, Al Jazireh kept their lead by applying a tighter man-to-man defence in their half of the court. Homentmen's Tadros, Chatmejian, and Basel Janho scored to narrow the gap but Al Jazireh finally won the match 94-63.

In the other match of the evening — attended like most other matches by a sparse crowd of no more than 40, despite the freezing weather inside and outside the basketball court — Al Orthodoxi scored a big win of 154-73 against Al Watani.

Al Orthodoxi scored through Jihad Salina and Murad Barakat leading 9-0 in the first minute, while Al Watani could not even attempt to score until the second minute.

Al Orthodoxi played a tight man-to-man zone defence, taking advantage of many loose balls to score by three-pointers and fast-breaks and built a commanding lead of 27-4 in the fifth minute! They kept up the pace as Muntaser Abul Tayyeb, Hilal and Murad Barakat and teammates scored to widen the lead to 36-8 and 40-12.

Meanwhile Al Watani's Hani Al Taher scored for his team but Al Orthodoxi won the first half 74-29 and the match 154-73.

In the upcoming matches Sunday, Al Orthodoxi play Al Hussein, and Al Abbasi play Al Jalil at the Yarmouk University court in Irbid, while Al Watani play Al Jazireh and Homentmen play Al Ahli at Al Ahli's court in Amman.

Mavericks earn honour — worst team in NBA

DALLAS (AP) — Rolando Blackman is gone. Jim Jackson hasn't shown up and the joke around town is the Dallas Mavericks might not win as many games as the Dallas Cowboys.

Add it up and you get the worst team in the NBA. The Mavericks have lost 15 of 17 games, even after a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers, and they could get worse before they get better.

Blackman, the team's most reliable player, was traded to the New York Knicks before the season. Holdout No. 1 draft pick Jackson says he won't play for the Mavericks.

That leaves one legitimate NBA player, Derek Harper, and a slew of rookies and minor league refugees.

What they really need is a lot of luck, something that has run dry in recent years, especially with high draft picks.

Their first-round pick in 1989, forward Randy White, has been an NBA bust. He's averaging 14.5 minutes and 5.6 points per game this year.

And 1991 No. 1 pick Doug Smith, averaging 14 points and 4.5 rebounds, has been a disappointment since reporting late and overweight last year.

Jackson, holding out for a six year contract that owner Donald Carter has refused to offer, even sent a message via the Dallas Morning News that he never wants to play in Dallas.

Harper, with a team-leading 19 point average, is left to try and buoy a fast-sinking franchise that could threaten the Philadelphia 76ers' record for futility — nine victories in 1973.

O'Neal outrebounds Sacramento
Shaquille O'Neal had 22 points and 20 rebounds and blocked

seven shots leading the Orlando Magic over the Sacramento Kings, 112-91.

O'Neal out-rebounded Sacramento's starting lineup, 20-19. He helped the Magic dominate the boards 59-39 and sent the Kings to their sixth straight loss.

Nick Anderson added 25 points and Dennis Scott had 17 for the Magic. Orlando made 16 of 22 shots in the first quarter and took a 15-point lead.

Bulls 107, Bullets 99

Michael Jordan missed 17 shots but still managed to score 28 points as the Chicago Bulls broke their three-game road losing streak by beating Washington.

Scottie Pippen had 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Bulls, whose three-game skid on the road was their longest since 1990. Jordan, who entered shooting 51 percent, made only 12 of 29 field goal attempts.

Still, Jordan scored when it counted. After Washington closed to 94-90 midway through the final period, Jordan had a dunk and a layup to give the Bulls an eight point cushion. Tom Gugliotta had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Michael Adams scored 20 for the Bullets, who have lost five straight.

Drzen Petrovic converted a three point play with one second left and the New Jersey Nets sent Milwaukee to its ninth straight loss.

Milwaukee took a 101-99 lead on Frank Brickowski's basket with 8.6 seconds left. After a timeout, New Jersey's Sam Bowie put up a wild shot from the left baseline but petrovic grabbed the offensive rebound, hit the basket and was fouled by Alvin Robertson.

Nets 102, Bucks 10

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Bowe signs \$100m TV deal

NEW YORK (R) — Heavyweight boxing champion Riddick Bowe, who lost one of his titles this week without throwing a punch, landed what was described as the richest television boxing deal over — one that could earn him more than \$100 million.

Bowe agreed to a six-fight package in a "flexible" deal that will probably break down into two fights live on HBO Cable Television and four on TVKO pay per view, according to Time Warner Sports President Seth Abraham.

"This is the richest boxing deal in sports T.V. history," said Abraham, who helped steer HBO into a \$27 million deal with then-champion Mike Tyson in 1987 for eight fights.

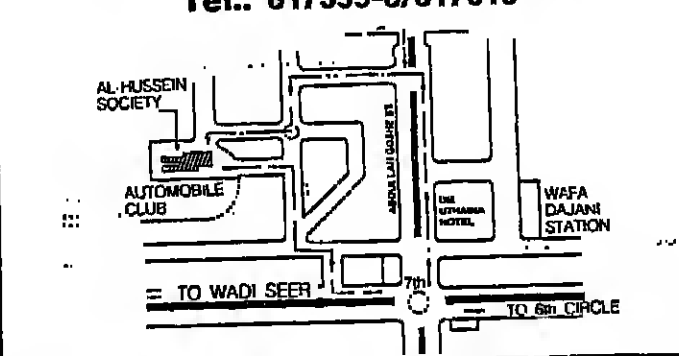
"I hope you'll have a merry Christmas, 'cause I know I am," Bowe told a news conference.

Specific terms were not divulged and, of course, are tied to Bowe's continuing as champion.

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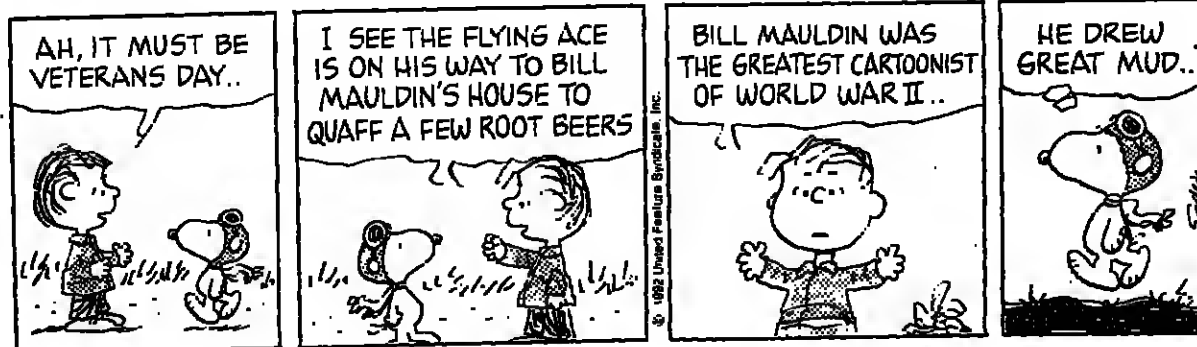
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Andy Capp



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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY DECEMBER 19, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Founder

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As out of town notice or letter from a person whose ideas are markedly different from your own can help you gain some aim at this moment even with the MOON squaring Venus...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Quick action in acknowledging messages and other communications to get out can be the best way for you to make really constructive use of today.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your mind is quick and alert to realize the advantages that come from some money matter which is the means by which you can make real progress.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your ideas are reasonable and you can see with dispatch how to put a new course in motion that will make your efforts more fruitful for you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your best results today will follow getting off alone or with a confident and talking out private ways and means to enhance your success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Being in touch with a number of friends outlining what you have in mind of a festive nature can bring them closer to you and also more enjoyable times.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think over how you can get the good will of one in power by

showing your quick mind analytical talent and you can help your public cause.

LIBRA: (September 23 to Oct 22) Many bits of information as to your attention are by you will be able to consider improved set of circumstances your present progress.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to Nov 21) You have considerable resourcefulness and ingenuity by which you will be able to headway with whatever you have made.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take time to recapitulate to your associates things you can do with these harmonious accord that will in your dreams come true.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You like to know factors of whatever demands attention at your usual scope and this is the day when you obvious, can be utilized to gain you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Feb 19) By considering more of what any close companions are from their association, you, you will be able to place make them stronger allies.

PISCES: (February 20 to Mar 20) This is the moment when necessary you listen carefully what any member of your is has in say as it can indicate way have a greater accord at hand.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Maybe I'm just a jealous guy, but I don't like it when Jack Frost nips at your nose!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOCCI

NELIR

WOELLY

SPICHY

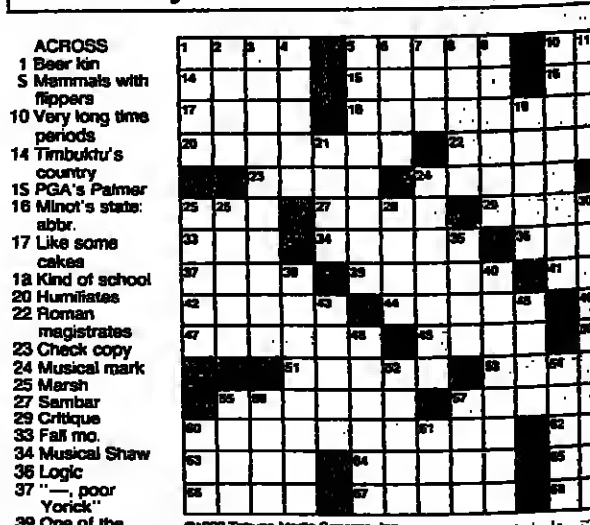
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: BY "O O O O - O O O O"

Yesterday's Jumbles: LURID PEONY TYCOON REDUCE

Answer: Where the mathematicians all ate lunch AT THE "COUNTER"

THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McEath



Yesterday's Puzzle Solution

DOWN
1 Surrounded by
2 Alenon product
3 Kind of school
4 — (with support)
5 Scrotes
6 Maritime birds
7 Black cuckoo
8 — and onions
9 Farm implement
10 Indentures
11 Comic strip dog
12 Turner and Cole
13 Wild blue
14 "Yonder"
15 Levitates
16 Vard's slave
17 Original
18 Frodo
19 Fanfare
20 Last extender
21 Chemical
22 compound
23 Rebecca and
24 Santa's transport
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27 Trademark
28 Dogma
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30 Santa's transport
31 In union
32 NY city
33 Trademark
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16/12/92	1.5750	1.5770
17/12/92	1.5571	1.5563
17/12/92	1.3990	1.3975
17/12/92	5.3220	5.3160
17/12/92	122.98	123.12
17/12/92	1.2575	1.2575

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.50	3.50	3.50	4.00
Sterling Pound	7.62	7.25	7.00	6.62
Deutsche Mark	9.50	9.05	8.62	8.00
Swiss Franc	6.50	6.06	6.06	5.75
French Franc	11.75	11.25	10.00	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.90	3.68	3.62	3.62
European Currency Unit	11.50	11.12	10.50	9.50

Gold and Silver

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	337.60	6.55	Silver	3.75	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.686	0.688
Sterling Pound	1.0814	1.0868
Deutsche Mark	0.4407	0.4429
Swiss Franc	0.4904	0.4929
French Franc	0.1290	0.1296
Japanese Yen	0.5563	0.5591
Dutch Guilder	0.3919	0.3939
Irish Punt	0.1006	0.1011
Italian Lira	0.0491	0.0443
Spanish Peseta	0.0214	0.0215

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7930	1.8100
Sterling Pound	0.03615	0.03825
Deutsche Mark	0.1826	0.1839
Swiss Franc	0.2020	0.2150
French Franc	0.1859	0.1869
Japanese Yen	0.2020	0.2150
Dutch Guilder	1.7520	1.7650
Irish Punt	0.1859	0.1869
Italian Lira	0.3298	0.3398
Spanish Peseta	1.4680	1.4880

Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	15/12/92	Close	16/12/92	Close
All Share	167.93		167.74	
Banking Sector	720.67		720.80	
Insurance Sector	182.96		183.26	
Industry Sector	230.24		229.61	
Services Sector	240.14		239.15	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for foreign currencies and gold against the Jordanian dinar at mid-session on Friday, December 18, 1992.

Currency	15/12/92	16/12/92
U.S. dollar	1.2731/36	1.2731/36
Canadian dollar	1.5635/45	1.5635/45
Deutsche marks	1.7000/10	1.7000/10
Dutch guilders	1.4058/68	1.4058/68
Swiss francs	32.17/22	32.17/22
Belgian francs	1.7600/10	1.7600/10
French francs	1406/1410	1406/1410
Italian lire	123.07/12	123.07/12
Japanese yen	7.0000/100	7.0000/100
Swedish crowns	6.7300/400	6.7300/400
Norwegian crowns	6.0450/550	6.0450/550
Danish crowns	1.5688/98	1.5688/98
Gold	337.10/337.60	337.10/337.60

Yugoslav embargo costs Bulgaria \$1.2 billion

SOFIA (R) — United Nations sanctions against rump Yugoslavia have cost Bulgaria more than \$1.2 billion so far this year and if they go on could cost \$3 billion in 1993, a government spokesman has said.

"In a letter to the U.N. Security Council Bulgaria said it would suffer damage of more than \$1.2 billion this year because of the strict observance of the sanctions mainly against Serbia," spokeswoman Nadezhda Mikhailova told Reuters.

The losses include \$690 million for industry, \$355 million for trade and \$70 million for transport. Power production and tourism are also affected.

The losses do not include those caused by aborted financial transactions, and worsened telecommunications links between Bulgaria and the rest of the world. Bulgaria's only passage to western Europe is via Yugoslavia.

Ms. Mikhailova noted Bulgaria, which is burdened by \$12 billion of foreign debt accumulated under communist rule, had already lost more than \$2 billion from U.N. sanctions against Iraq and Libya.

"And we never received a single penny in compensation," she added.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKETS

Trading and Closing Prices for the Period (12/12/1992 - 16/12/1992)

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	TRADING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	44,421	3,800	3,700
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	185,437	2,430	2,400
THE JORDANIAN BANK	384,253	3,580	3,410
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	7,240	3,180	3,180
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1,244,782	2,140	2,140
ORION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	139,251	3,610	3,610
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	135,952	2,180	2,180
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	455,244	5,160	5,160
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	27,234	4,520	4,400
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/JO	1,103,127	1,870	1,870
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	128,054	1,800	1,800
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES BUSINESS NAME	237,130	4,200	4,190
NETT EXCEL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR ROOING	45,638	2,200	2,240
JORDAN CO-OP	172,830	5,540	5,550
CAIRO ARAB BANK	33,700	8,000	8,130
ARAB BANK	209,645	115,000	121,000
ARAB BANK	425	2,370	2,370
ARAB BANK	584	4,770	4,750
JORDAN INSURANCE	13,140	3,180	3,180
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	40,730	3,300	3,200
JORDAN INSURANCE	10,810	3,500	3,500
UNITED INSURANCE	1,425	3,550	3,550
JORDAN PERPETUAL INSURANCE	244,718	3,340	3,340
YAROSLAV INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	527,225	3,750	3,750
ARABIAN ARAB INSURANCE	38,412	2,730	2,730
UNITED INSURANCE	132	2,540	0.000
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	140,325	3,110	3,130
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	3,480	3,450	3,450
ARAB INSURANCE	1,550	2,750	2,750
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT	6,542	4,980	5,000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	154,213	1,430	1,440
ARAB INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY	74,634	6,520	6,530
LEVIATAN & POLYMER	123,822	1,240	1,250
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	12,480	3,330	3,330
JORDANIAN STEEL & CONSTRUCTION	1,334,551	2,530	2,530
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	57,572	8,500	8,470
BAKERY & CONFECTIONERY	265,140	1,300	1,300
PEPPER & SPICES	92,910	1,240	1,230
JORDAN VULCANIZING & RUBBER	228,612	0.350	0.350
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1,553	2,140	2,120
JORDAN PERPETUAL INSURANCE	11,900	5,430	5,550
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	807,451	2,530	2,530
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION	405,247	1,700	1,700
JORDAN SECURITIES	1,548	3,430	3,430
ARAB INTERNATIONAL	1,844,517	10,430	10,350
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	348,649	6,820	6,820
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL	326,159	6,240	6,200
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	364,750	22,100	22,540
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	130,262	5,850	5,900
WOLFE INDUSTRIES	802,451	3,400	3,400
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	126,240	4,820	4,820
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	214,425	10,200	10,200
THE JORDANIAN WOOD INDUSTRIES	34,226	6,300	6,300
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	820,240	0.930	0.930
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	32,495	6,250	6,250
JORDAN PERPETUAL INSURANCE	3,475	4,300	4,300
JORDAN VULCANIZING & RUBBER	56,247	3,500	3,510
JORDAN SECURITIES	2,458	4,500	4,500
ARAB CHEMICAL PERPETUAL	2,040,612	4,320	4,310
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	238,044	3,040	3,040
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	361,409	13,300	13,300
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	47,008	4,300	4,300
BAPIA INDUSTRIES	14,440	3,200	3,200
WOLFE INDUSTRIES	52,858	3,500	3,500
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	216,215	1,340	1,340
SPINNING & WEAVING	373,492	3,210	3,230
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JORDAN	10,180	2,700	2,700
NATIONAL CHEMICAL & WOOD MANUFACTURING	383,643	4,750	4,700
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES	389,905	4,880	4,880
JORDAN CHEMICAL FACTORIES	851,344	1,700	1,680
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES	114,744	3,400	3,410
JORDAN PERPETUAL	80	1,100	0.000
JORDAN PERPETUAL CONCRETE INDUSTRY	804,214	0.820	0.820
UNIVERSAL WOOD INDUSTRIES	1,123,814	5,790	5,790
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	384,408	3,320	3,310
JORDAN WOOD & CHEMICALS	84,553	26,500	27,550
JORDAN PERPETUAL	37,010	8,000	8,000
THE ARAB POSTER	3,449	21,000	22,990
GRAND TOTAL		22,347,517	

U.S., Mexican and Canadian leaders sign free trade pact

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and leaders in Mexico and Canada Thursday signed a controversial free trade accord that will spur growth but faces stiff opposition from thousands of American jobs.

The pact is sure to win approval by lawmakers in Mexico and Canada, but in the U.S. Congress it faces tough opposition, especially from organized labor and environmentalists.

President Bush said: "The peace and friendship we've long enjoyed as neighbors will now be strengthened by the explosion in growth and trade let loose by the combined energy of our 360 million citizens trading freely across our border."

He spoke at a ceremony at the Organization of American States headquarters at about the time the treaty was signed by President Carlos Salinas in Mexico City.

In Ottawa, protesters broke into the signing by Prime Minister

Brian Mulroney in Canada's parliament.

They protested at what they derided as a "sell-out" to the United States and charged the pact would cost Canadian jobs. But observers said Mr. Mulroney, with a 10-seat majority in the House of Commons, would have little trouble winning approval of the accord.

U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton reaffirmed his general support of the pact but, like some of its foes, said side agreements should be written to protect jobs and the environment as well as U.S. industries against sudden surges of imports.

Mr. Clinton said he looked forward to early meetings with Mr. Salinas and Mr. Mulroney to discuss the accord, reached after 14 months of negotiations.

Opponents say it will cost hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs as factories close and move across the Rio Grande to take advantage of Mexico's low wages and lax enforcement of clean air and water laws.

A coalition of labor, environmental, farm and health groups said Wednesday they would step up their opposition to the agreement. They plan a series of television spots and newspaper commercials lobbying lawmakers. Black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said he would lead demonstrations at abandoned U.S. factory sites and along the Rio Grande, already polluted by industry.

Senator Max Baucus, a Democrat and leader in foreign trade legislation, said in a statement that he backed NAFTA's commercial provisions but, like Mr. Clinton, said worker adjustment and environmental concerns had to be addressed first. He advised Mr. Clinton not to send the agreement to Congress until those concerns had been resolved.

Mr. Bush said he believed the time would come when all of the western hemisphere would be part of a free trade zone.

"I hope and trust that the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) can be extended to Chile, other worthy partners in south and central America and the Caribbean."

The 2,000-page agreement gradually ends tariffs and quotas, enables U.S. and Canadian securities firms and insurance companies to buy into Mexican firms, and opens trade in cars and textiles, now restricted.

The accord, to go into effect in 1994, would add Mexico to the present U.S.-Canada free trade pact and phase out all trading barriers over 15 years.

When fully implemented, the trading area would stretch from the Yukon to the Yucatan and encompass 360 million people with an annual output of \$6 trillion in goods and services, rivaling the European Community in population and wealth.

Israel approves plan to save military industries

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli cabinet has approved a \$290 million restructuring plan that will slash a third of the jobs at state-owned Israel Military Industries (IMI) Finance Minister Abraham Shohat said.

Hit by shrinking markets and high operating costs, IMI last year lost \$239 million, more than the combined earnings of all other state-run companies.

"I am completely satisfied with this plan," Mr. Shohat told Reuters. "I believe this is a realistic programme and a real solution for IMI."

Under the plan, one third of IMI's 7,500 workers would be made redundant, on top of 2,500 already gone. The company would negotiate wage cuts for the rest and sell off factories and land.

IMI Director-General Gadi Komisar said the government will invest \$150 million to fund the recovery, in addition to \$140 million in severance pay for IMI workers.

State budget director David Brodet told reporters Tuesday salaries paid IMI technicians were up to 76 per cent higher than those in non-military high-tech industries.

IMI, founded as a weapons and ammunition manufacturing arm of the defence ministry, was converted into a state company in November, 1990, to allow it to seek investment capital.

Mr. Shohat said he believed the plan would be implemented as approved, but added: "There must still be negotiations between the workers and management, because there remains some misunderstanding between them, to say the least."

S. Africa says disinvestment surge curbed

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African Finance Minister Derek Keys has said foreign investors withdrew two billion rand (\$715 million) in the second quarter of 1992 because of political instability but the outflow had since been curbed.

Capital flight jumped from "nil" in the first quarter to two billion rand in the second when multi-party democracy talks broke down and black opposition groups launched a campaign of mass demonstrations for faster political reform, he said.

"The process of disinvesting has stopped but the process of investing has not yet started," Mr. Keys told a news conference.

The Reserve (central) Bank said in its June 1992 quarterly review that net withdrawal of foreign funds had subsided considerably over the past two years.

Slump in sales hits European car industry giants

LONDON (R) — Recession and a slump in car sales are hitting the traditional giants of the car industry in Europe, biting into profits and threatening thousands of jobs.

On Wednesday, U.S. car maker Ford announced more than 2,600 job cuts in Europe, while German companies Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen (V.W.) and MAN issued gloomy statements on the outlook for the German car industry.

"We are entering a crisis," Dieter Ullsperger, V.W.'s head of finance, told reporters.

But as the traditional big names adjust to tumbling profits and falling demand by scaling back production, Japanese-owned "transplants" in Britain plan to increase output next year.

Ironically, within hours of Ford's announcement, Toyota started production at a new plant in Burnaston, central England, aiming to make some 35,000 cars in its first year.

Europe's car makers face a host of problems even before they confront competition from Japanese "transplants" — factories set up in Europe to get around European Community (EC) import quotas.

The big problem is an international slump in sales as consumers, worried about recession, put off buying new cars.

Germany's car makers, saddled with some of the highest costs in the world, have to contend with an unexpectedly sharp slowdown in the economy which has choked domestic demand.

"The German economy burst like a soap bubble," Daimler Management Board Chairman Edgar Reuter told reporters.

The devaluation of many European currencies against the mark has also made German exports more expensive. On top of that, high German interest rates have sent car firms scurrying to cut costs and put workers on shorter shifts.

In Wolfsburg, V.W.'s Ullsperger predicted a 20 per cent shrinkage in the German car market next year and said V.W.'s production would be curbed by 80,000 vehicles. He also said V.W.'s net profit this year would be considerably below last year's 1.11 billion marks (\$712.4 million).

V.W. has trimmed its domestic workforce by around 5,000 this year as part of a planned reduction of 12,500 by the end of 1994. Further cuts are possible if demand weakens.

Daimler-Benz, Germany's biggest car company, also warned Wednesday of falling 1992 profits as business weakened in its Mercedes-Benz automotive division. Mercedes-Benz intends to cut its domestic workforce by 12,500 by the end of 1992 and

Ramos sees Philippines growing painfully

MANTLA (R) — President Fidel Ramos has said Monday the Philippines faced hardships in opening up its economy to achieve growth but "there is no gain without pain."

He told economists that deregulation of foreign exchange transactions and imports, privatisation of state corporations, and paying debts would entail short-term difficulties, but were the only choice the country had.

"Opening the economy will obviously be difficult in the short term. But in this world there is no gain without pain," he told a meeting of the Philippine Economic Society.

"In the wake of communism's collapse, competition in the world is shifting from the military and the political to business and trade," he pointed out.

Mr. Ramos lifted all major restrictions on foreign exchange in August, paving the way for an inflow of dollars from Filipino workers overseas that pushed up the peso's value and hurt exporters' business.

Exporters have demanded bolder central bank action to intervene in the market to push the peso down, but the government has rejected a devaluation.

Mr. Ramos said banks were instead asked to offer exporters lower-interest loans to help them cope.

"I would say the leaders in the export sector are...reconciled to the fact that we have to go through these short painful processes so that in the end we can truly be competitive in the world market," he told a news conference following his speech.

Central bank figures show the inflow of dollars boosted its gross international reserves to near record levels of \$5.1 billion in November, which enabled the government to put \$4.1 billion in high-yielding investments abroad.

The economy would have declined in the first nine months if not for the workers' remittances, which pushed gross national product up a minimal 0.91 per cent.

"We are on track in so far as the overall (economic) programme is concerned," Mr. Ramos said. "We must deregulate and decontrol as much as possible."

He said cutting repayments of debt, as some legislators proposed, was not an alternative.

Mr. Ramos said his government was dismantling monopolies left over from the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos and freeing business enterprises, along with speeding up the sale of government corporations.

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Owen arrives in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — International peace negotiator Lord Owen arrived in Sarajevo Friday for discussions expected to focus on plans for safe escape routes for people wanting to leave the besieged Bosnian capital.

Lord Owen, accompanied by the commander of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon, and by Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic, went straight into a meeting at Sarajevo Airport with Serb and Croat military officials.

But there was no representative from the Muslim side at the meeting, the latest in a series of three-way gatherings brokered by the U.N. in a bid to end the fighting. It was unclear if a Muslim military official would join them later.

Bosnia's Serb leaders, whose forces have been besieging the city for months, had already told civilians trapped there they could join a mass evacuation from Sarajevo Friday and urged them to meet outside a city church.

But United Nations peacekeepers (UNPROFOR) in the capital disowned the plan and angrily denied Serb claims that they had given their blessing to the scheme.

"UNPROFOR has no plans to escort any such group and any suggestion to the contrary is dishonest," the U.N. said in a statement on Thursday night.

In a move which would effectively stop would-be evacuees from gathering, Sarajevo's police broadcast a statement Friday morning warning people to stay off the city streets and remain in their shelters.

"This is because another heavy shelling of Sarajevo is expected today," the statement said. It made no mention of the planned evacuation.

Despite the warning, some six people clutching suitcases turned up at the church but were turned away by police.

Sarajevo was unusually quiet overnight. Only sporadic shelling and scattered machinegun fire could be heard across the Bosnian capital, much of which is

without water, electricity or telephones amid sub-zero temperatures.

But fighting continued elsewhere in Bosnia. Sarajevo Radio said there was heavy shelling overnight around the towns of Gradacac and Doboj, both on the northern "corridor" link vital to both sides.

Outside former Yugoslavia international pressure mounted to step up measures to end the fighting.

The United States made it clear at the United Nations it was ready to support a General Assembly resolution Friday calling for the use of force to help Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The draft also recommends lifting a U.N. arms embargo, allowing Muslims to buy weapons to defend themselves against the well-equipped Serbs.

Despite the continued fighting, leaders of Bosnia's self-declared Serb republic have said they would declare a unilateral end to the war before the new year.

The Serbs' Muslim and Croat foes dismissed the plan as a fake, but the Serbs insisted that their offer to allow Sarajevo residents to go free after an eight-month siege was sincere.

U.N. officials in the city said any discussion of safe passage out of Sarajevo at the meeting with Lord Owen was expected to be linked to a demand from the Muslim-led Bosnian government that all heavy weapons be removed from around the city airport.

Fighting on the airport road Friday morning forced a British U.N. relief convoy from Vitez to turn back, workers from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in Sarajevo.

Four UNHCR trucks bringing basic foodstuffs and bedding arrived in the town of Ljubovija on Serbia's border with Bosnia Friday to help thousands of Serb refugees fleeing attacks by Muslims around the nearby town of Bratunac.

Some 2,000 refugees, mainly women and children, spent the night cramped in schools and

other communal buildings, sleeping on school desks which had pushed together.

Up to 3,000 additional Serb refugees were taken in by private families in Ljubovija, whose peace-time population of 4,000 has already been doubled by earlier influxes of refugees.

In Zagreb, Mr. Izetbegovic said Thursday that neither the West nor Islamic countries were ready to intervene militarily in Bosnia.

"These are hard frontlines and only our boys can sacrifice their lives there. Justifiably we cannot expect anybody's military help," Mr. Izetbegovic told a packed news conference in Zagreb.

"No country is ready to send its boys alive and bring them back in coffins. For the past 40 years Europe has been rolling in affluence and it is not ready to make sacrifices for any principles."

But he said Bosnians hoped the international community would at least put pressure on politicians to lift the embargo on weapons against them.

"The only way to establish peace and to have serious negotiations is to have a military balance. At the moment we can't have that so we need to get weapons... at least for self-defence... we demand a limited quantity of defensive weapons."

"The U.N. believes that there is a peaceful solution to the crisis... Frankly I don't believe that is possible."

He said neighbouring Croatia was not ready for a full military alliance with Bosnia.

"I think that Croatia because of its economic problems is trying to find the shortest way out of the war and that is why it is supporting a political solution. We fully understand that."

But agreement was reached between Mr. Izetbegovic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Thursday "to coordinate military actions in border regions."

Meanwhile the parliament of the self-declared Serb Republic in Bosnia has declared an end to its ethnic war in an apparent effort to blunt the threat of Western

military intervention.

But the announcement Thursday, carried by the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency, offered little hope of a breakthrough since it was clear Serb forces do not intend to give back captured land. It said a unilateral truce would take effect in eight days.

The announcement may have a bearing on Sunday's elections in Yugoslavia, where the hardline Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, is struggling for re-election against Milan Panic, the Yugoslav federal president.

Ardent Serb nationalists in Bosnia consider Mr. Panic a traitor for seeking to end the war in Bosnia with Serb concessions.

But in Belgrade, more than 150,000 people rallied in front of the federal parliament Thursday in support of Mr. Panic, a Serb-born American. It was the largest demonstration in the Serbian capital since a weeklong summer protest against Mr. Milosevic.

In Brussels Thursday, NATO allies said they would be willing to support the United Nations in enforcing a ban on Serbian military flights over Bosnia. The United States has offered to volunteer jets of shoot down Serbian aircraft violating the ban.

In Pale, outside Sarajevo, meanwhile, the parliament of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic adopted a declaration proclaiming the "ethnic-religious war" in Bosnia was over as far as leader Radovan Karadzic is concerned, Tanjug said.

The declaration said Bosnian Serbs were ready to begin peace negotiations and would call on all paramilitary armed groups to turn in their weapons.

The declaration said the front lines of Serb controlled territory as of noon Thursday would represent temporary borders of the Serb republic. It said the borders would be temporary until a formal peace accord is concluded, Tanjug reported.

Such an accord could be concluded only after Croatia withdraws its units from Bosnia, the declaration said.

Asked for his plans if defeated, Democratic Party runner Kim Dae-Jung replied: "I am only thinking of victory."

Dark horse Chung Ju-Yung, founder of the Hyundai industrial empire and a political novice, expressed similar confidence.

As polling booths closed at the end of a mild and sunny winter day, election officials said final voter turnout was expected to be around 80 per cent, compared with 89 per cent in the last presidential election in 1987.

More than 71 per cent had cast their votes an hour before the booths closed, according to official figures.

Voters and observers said the election proceeded quietly, calmly and with good humour, in contrast to the 1987 poll which brought Mr. Roh to power.

"It's incredibly peaceful and mellow compared with the sinister atmosphere last time," said Bradley Martin, an American Fulbright scholar who observed the 1987 election as a journalist.

Voters, who five years ago appeared intimidated and reluctant to talk to reporters, chatted openly.

"This was clean compared to last time," said Kim Sung-Ko, 28, after casting his vote in Tongkyo-Dong, Seoul.

The polls opened at 7 a.m. (2200 GMT Thursday) and closed at 6 p.m. (0900 GMT Friday).

The first of the nation's 15,346 polling stations to close was in a remote west coast village, just seven minutes after all 28 voters had cast their ballots.

The only report of irregularities came from the southern provincial capital of Kwangju, stronghold of opposition candidate Kim Dae-Jung.

Election watchdog officials halted balloting for an hour after discovering red stains over Mr. Kim's middle name on thousands of polling slips.

An investigation was launched but officials said they suspected it was simply a result of printing problems and reopened the booths.

Private polls showed as many as 45 per cent of the electorate were undecided Thursday night.

But whatever the outcome, it will further confirm South Korea's passage from authoritarian military state to civilian-led democracy.

Nationwide street demonstrations forced president and former General Chun Doo Hwan to concede to direct presidential elections in 1987, ushering in a new era of democracy.

Both Kims stood in the 1987 presidential race, splitting the opposition camp and ushering General Roh to victory with only 37 per cent of votes cast.

One of Friday's voters, 114-year-old Park Moo-Soon, was born when a Yi Dynasty king ruled over a unified but hermit-like Korea and she has experienced the brutal years of Japanese colonial rule, the Korean War and decades of authoritarian rule.

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambodia released Friday 46 United Nations peacekeepers they had been holding northwest of the capital.

"It would appear the 46 men left the location aboard two trucks and two anti-mine vehicles," U.N. spokesman Eric Falt told a noon briefing in Phnom Penh.

Mr. Falt said the 46 Indonesian soldiers, held overnight by the Khmer Rouge near the provincial capital of Kompong Thom, radioed their base just before noon saying they were returning.

Kompong Thom is about 150 kilometres northwest of here.

Mr. Falt said the men claimed to be fine and said were driving to Phum Chanda, a small village south of where they were detained, on their way back to Kompong Thom.

He added that a landcruiser type vehicle was left behind. It is not clear whether the vehicle had broken down or was used as a bargaining tool in the release of the hostages.

Earlier, the Khmer Rouge chief holding the peacekeepers said they would only be released when he received written instructions from his commander, General Men Ron, who is based in Kompong Thom.

It was not certain whether those written instructions were sent by Gen. Men Ron to the chief holding the peacekeepers before they were released, Mr. Falt said.

The Indonesians were detained by the Khmer Rouge Thursday after the U.N. soldiers had helped negotiate the release of 33 other peacekeepers.

Since the Khmer Rouge dropped out of the peacekeeping operation in June, they have refused the U.N. access to areas under their control.

This is the third time in two weeks that Khmer Rouge soldiers have held peacekeepers who have gone into areas controlled by the guerrillas.

U.N. officials, including Mr. Falt, maintain the three incidents are the work of local Khmer Rouge chiefs.

However, some Western analysts in Phnom Penh believe this is part of a larger Khmer Rouge strategy to warn the U.N. not to enter territory under their control, to cause instability in the lead up to national elections, and to remind the international community they are still a force to be reckoned with.

Mr. Aspin emerged early in the speculation of whom Mr. Clinton might choose to head the Pentagon.

Mr. McCurdy, 42, is a senior member of Mr. Aspin's committee. A source in Little Rock suggested that he remained a longshot possibility for defence, but that he was thought more likely to get CIA.

No announcements of additional appointments were scheduled Friday.

Mr. Clinton still had domestic policy posts to fill before moving on to national security posts.

Mr. Clinton said Thursday that he still hoped to wrap up the work by Christmas. On Thursday, he named former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Vietnam veteran Jesse Brown to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Cisneros is Hispanic and Mr. Brown, executive director of the Disabled American Veterans, is black.

So far, Mr. Clinton has filled six cabinet slots and 12 other high-level posts. He has eight cabinet posts to fill — agriculture, defence, education, energy, interior, justice, state and transportation — plus U.N. ambassador.

Transition Director Warren Christopher remained in line to be secretary of state, sources said.

Mr. Aspin, 54, a moderate Democrat, opposed the Vietnam War, as did Mr. Clinton. More recently, Mr. Aspin has generally supported Pentagon programmes.

He was a strong supporter of the Gulf war and backed financing for the MX missile and aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

Sources said Mr. Clinton wanted a chance for an extended face-to-face session with Mr. Aspin before making a final decision.

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India has expelled an official of the Pakistani embassy on charges of espionage, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

Mohammad Salim Anjum was ordered to leave India by Monday, following the arrest of an Indian man who told investigators he had worked for Mr. Anjum as a spy, the spokesman said.

It was the second expulsion of an official of the Pakistan high commission, or embassy, in the past two weeks. On Dec. 5, Indian authorities ordered Mohammad Ishtaq expelled for alleged spying activities.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Anjum, an embassy assistant, had been meeting Mohammad Maqbool Ranga, a native of the northern Jammu-Kashmir state, which borders Pakistan, since February 1988.

In November of that year, Mr. Ranga was sent to Pakistan for special training in intelligence gathering, said the spokesman, who cannot be named under briefing rules.

Mr. Anjum met Mr. Ranga in a New Delhi hotel and paid him \$142 for each rendezvous, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, in an apparently retaliatory move Thursday, Pakistan expelled three officials of the Indian embassy in Pakistan, the spokesman said.

Pakistan has issued a strong protest to New Delhi over the shooting of a Pakistani fisherman this week.

Pakistani-Indian ties are going through a "difficult" period, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, announcing the latest moves fuelling differences in already tense relations between the two arch-foes.

The three non-diplomat officials at the high commission in Islamabad and the consulate general in Karachi were carrying out activities incompatible with their functions in Pakistan, the spokesman said. He declined to give details.

They were declared persona non grata and would be given adequate time to leave, he said.

These are the second expulsions this year. Last May, Pakistan expelled one Indian diplomat

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German mom spoils Kohl's breakfast

BONN (R) — German for Helmut Kohl's early morning television sight of grumpy, interviewing tired, spoils his breakfast, revealed his early-morning and dislikes at a press where he sat down to breakfast, television wonderful institution, foster human dignity in way.

"It amounts to a loss in the quality of people expect a healthy diet to watch at six o'clock in the morning someone who has slept in a bad mood, television," the claim "Just seeing these jump politicians who look because they had to be so early making my taste," he said from the press. "I've a stick to the old-fashioned Germany's state-run ARD and ZDF launch fast television early in the morning, all-news channel, NDR broadcasting last night."

Jogger kills ostrich

JOHANNESBURG — A kick-boxing ostrich when it attacked a jogger in the South African city of Johannesburg, the ostrich was the town's first victim of the Orange Free State when the ostrich attacked the jogger on his way to the ground and was killed. "I was running at him and he came at him and he seemed off balance. I grabbed him by the neck and he was dead," said the jogger, who was running with a group of friends.

Britain told a day keeps the away

LONDON (R) — researchers have said moderate alcohol intake can reduce the risk of the common cold. Dr. Smith, director of health research at Cardiff in Wales, said he had standard size glasses of 1 1/2 pints (0.85 litres) kept colds at bay in a carried out. Dr. Smith week's meeting of the Psychological Society three-year study of 40 showed those prone which is a major factor to infections, and colds. Experts say also reduce stress and Dr. the conference: "Few our study drank more units a day, which is equivalent to a half of beer glasses of wine. It shows the risk of catching decreases with the alcohol consumed."

Norway opens for homosexual marriage

OSLO (AP) — The government has passed a law that allows homosexuals to enter into a civil partnership with a partner to marriage. Minister of Families Grete Braut, who hoped parliament would adopt the law next year, allow homosexuals to their partnership with public, in much the same heterosexual couples do ceremony. "The homosexual law would have the obligations of a married couple except for adopting children being married in a church."

Report: 14.3 million American children are poor

WASHINGTON (R) — of five American children live in poverty in 1991, the highest since 1965, the U.S. Census Bureau said in a report on "The state of children." "Over the years we have witnessed American dream slipping away," said President Wright Edelman in the report.

Yeltsin: START II to be signed in January

PEKING (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday that the START II treaty to slash by two-thirds the strategic nuclear arsenals of Russia and the United States would be signed in January.

"I can tell you now that a START II (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) agreement has been prepared for a two-thirds cut in strategic nuclear weapons between the United States and Russia," Yeltsin said in a speech to a group of Chinese intellectuals.

"And it can be signed at the beginning of January next year," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin said it took 15 years of negotiations to reduce the arsenals by one third.

"To cut it down two-thirds took less than one year. And in January we will sign such an agreement," he said.

In Brussels, U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said Friday he was not aware that a U.S.-Russian deal to slash their

arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons had been reached, as announced earlier by Mr. Yeltsin in Peking.

"I don't know anything more than I've heard out of Peking," Mr. Eagleburger told reporters at a meeting of NATO heard out of Peking. Mr. Eagleburger told reporters at a meeting of NATO and former Warsaw Pact members in Brussels.

"I hope he (Yeltsin) is right," Mr. Eagleburger promised more details as soon as they were available.

Mr. Eagleburger discussed the issue with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Stockholm last Saturday, but reported problems still outstanding. Experts from the two sides held further talks Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin met headline Communist Chinese Premier Li Peng Friday for talks he hopes will bury suspicions born of old ideological rivalries and forge strong economic ties.

In a sign of the new,

economically-based relationship, the two sides signed an agreement providing a \$2.5 million Russian credit to China for construction of a nuclear power station.

Russia will provide the technology and experts for the station, which will comprise two 1,000 megawatt units, Alexander Shokhin, deputy premier for foreign trade, told reporters.

After Mr. Yeltsin laid a wreath at the Monument to the People's Heroes in Tiananmen Square, the man who buried Soviet communism turned to face a huge portrait of the founder of the Chinese Communist state, the late Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, and waved.

The monument was the centre of the student-led pro-democracy movement that swept China three and a half years ago, reaching its climax the last time China hosted a senior Kremlin leader.

Then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was hailed as a hero by the student demonstrators when he arrived in May 1989.

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Mr. Yeltsin, facing a crucial test of his economic reforms at home, was led into the marble-walled Great Hall of the People to meet a smiling Li Peng, who played a central role in ordering the bloody crackdown on the 1989 protests.

Mr. Yeltsin, speaking during a visit to the Great Wall of China Thursday, said the question of arms sales would be raised in his meetings with Chinese leaders.

Mr. Shokhin said Russia was interested in selling Sukhot-27 fighters and anti-aircraft weapons.

Russia is eager to sell arms, one area where its economy is up to the highest world standards, to support its painful transition from central planning to a market system.

China and Russia are also agreeing on a system of military cooperation ensuring that each warns the other of test firings of ballistic missiles.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Craxi wins reprieve as party leader

ROME (R) — Italy's Socialist Party postponed until January any decision on replacing long-time leader Bettino Craxi after he refused to bow out under a cloud of scandal. Mr. Craxi, a former prime minister, defiantly told an emergency meeting of the Socialist leadership that to resign would be an admission of guilt to allegations that he knew about \$25 million worth of bribes paid into party coffers. "My first instinct had been to... (resign) as a protest gesture. Now I think it would be seen as an admission of weakness, capitulation and even perhaps as an admission of guilt," he said. Mr. Craxi is under investigation on charges of corruption, receiving stolen goods and violating the law on political party funding. Milan magistrates want parliament to lift his immunity from prosecution.

Blood scandal causes new French crisis

PARIS (R) — France's ruling Socialists plunged deeper into crisis after party leader Laurent Fabius was forced by public outrage to seem his own trial before a parliamentary high court over an AIDS-tainted blood scandal. Mr. Fabius, prime minister in 1985 when contaminated blood transfusions infected 1,200 haemophiliacs with the AIDS virus, told a hastily-called news conference that he had asked parliament to indict him so that he could clear his name. "So that no possible ambiguity remains, however odious it may be for a man whose enemies recognise his innocence, I will myself vote for the indictment calling on the high court to deal with my case, since that is today the price of truth and honour," Mr. Fabius said.

Peking party secretary sacked

PEKING (AP) — Peking's headline Communist Party Secretary Li Ximing, a prominent supporter of the 1989 military crackdown on the democracy movement, has been sacked and replaced by Mayor Chen Xitong, the official press reported Friday. The capital's new 54-member Communist Party Committee made the decision during its first plenary session. The committee was elected during the five-day Peking Party Congress that ended Thursday. Mr. Li's imminent ouster had been rumoured since the summer. He had been Peking party secretary since June 1984. His successor is a rising star who promoted this fall to the national party's powerful politburo. Mr. Chen apparently will hold the two Peking posts concurrently. He will complete his five year term as mayor in early 1993.

Mitterrand's cancer problem persists

PARIS (AP) — The first presidential health bulletin issued since Francois Mitterrand's prostate surgery indicates that his cancer is not spreading but is not responding fully to treatment, a leading physician said. The terse bulletin was issued by Mr. Mitterrand's personal physician three months after the announcement that the president had undergone surgery for prostate cancer. The president had undergone surgery for prostate cancer. The president had undergone surgery for prostate cancer. The president had undergone surgery for prostate cancer.

\$37m stolen in French bank robbery

TOULON, France (R) — A dozen armed men grabbed up to 200 million francs (\$37 million) from a French bank after attacking dynamite to a bank employee, police said. The gang gained entry to the local branch of the Bank of France, the country's central bank, in this Mediterranean port late by seizing an employee, around whose waist they tied sticks of dynamite. They threatened to detonate the dynamite if they were not allowed inside the building, police said.

Yeltsin says Deng not feeling well

PEKING (R) — China's 88-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping is not feeling well, visiting Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday. "I conveyed warm wishes to him. He's not feeling too well, unfortunately," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters. He gave no further details. Mr. Yeltsin arrived in Peking for a three-day visit but was not scheduled to meet Mr. Deng, whose health is a constant concern both in China and overseas. Mr. Deng has officially retired from all his government and party posts and no longer receives foreign visitors but he still holds the levers of power in China.

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